



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1997

No. 149

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Dr. Charles Lever, Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church, Tampa, FL. He was born in South Carolina, but he moved to Florida.

We are glad to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. Charles Lever, Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church, Tampa, FL, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, You know the desires of our hearts, the burdens we bear, and the temptations we confront. Awaken us anew to Your way, that our hearts may be made pure, our burdens lightened, and our will made steadfast in confrontation with temptation.

We pray for our Nation, for we realize the wisdom of the Psalmist who wrote, "Lest the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it." We pray for the world, for we know that You are the creator of all peoples. As we celebrate our commonality as Your people in this global community, we also recognize the great diversity that exists between and among us. As the destiny of our Nation is tangled with the destinies of other nations, let us seek a world in which we can live and work together, always seeking the betterment of people everywhere, and never yielding to those who oppress the human spirit.

Bless these men and women of the U.S. Senate who seek to lead this Nation through the challenges of each new day. Grant them Your wisdom as they bear the tremendous responsibility for so many, that the decisions they render might bring healing and hope to those under their care. Empower them to find Your way in the midst of the crossroads of life that Your vision and Your kingdom may be first in their minds and hearts.

For Your presence with us in a world which all too often teeters between faith and doubt, hope and despair, we give You thanks for Your healing and renewal in both our public and private lives. Enable us in all our ways to follow after You in the paths of righteousness. We ask this, O Lord, in Your name, which is above every name. Amen.

DR. CHARLES LEVER, GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, the Senate is honored today to have Dr. Charles Lever with us. Dr. Lever is the senior minister at the Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church in Tampa in my home State of Florida. We are also happy to have his wife, Xiommy, who works as a hematopoietic product specialist at Ortho Biotech and is also active in the church as a certified lay speaker and is involved in Disciple Bible Study and the Walk to Emmaus. They have two sons—Chaz who is in the seventh grade, and Chapman, who is in the first grade.

Dr. Lever was called to the ordained ministry as a young man. He began his education at Wofford College in South Carolina, where he earned a bachelor of arts degree. He earned a master of divinity from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, and a doctor of ministry from Vanderbilt University in Nashville. He has also done continuing education work at the Jerusalem Center for Church Studies in Israel, and the Robert Schuller Institute in Garden Grove, CA.

Among his many educational and leadership awards and honors are the American Legion Award, induction into Phi Beta Kappa, Blue Key, and numerous other honorary fraternities and societies.

Mr. President, with some 3,200 members, Lake Magdalene Methodist is one of the largest churches in Florida. But Dr. Lever's accomplishments have al-

ways extended far beyond the sanctuary of his church. He is a leader in numerous organizations serving the people in his local community. Among these are the 90-unit apartment complex for the elderly, 125-unit child care center for low-income families, and the Life Center for older adults that he served as minister at the Riverside Park United Methodist Church of Jacksonville, FL.

He is active in both district and conference affairs of the United Methodist Church in Florida. He has served on the board of the Christian Enrichment School, the district committee on finance, and the Conference Council on Ministries.

The list of Dr. Lever's church and community leadership achievements is impressive and quite extensive. I ask unanimous consent that his biography be printed in the RECORD in its entirety at the end of my statement.

Let me say again, Mr. President, the Senate is honored and very pleased to have Dr. Lever with us today, and we appreciate his opening prayer this morning. I'm sure all my colleagues wish him and his family all the best in his ministry to the members of Lake Magdalene United Methodist Church of Tampa, FL.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DR. CHARLES C. LEVER, SR.

Dr. Charles C. Lever, Sr. is the Senior Minister at the 3,200 member Lake Magdalene United States Methodist Church (UMC) in Tampa, Florida. His wife, Xiommy is a Hematopoietic Product Specialist with Ortho Biotech, one of the Johnson and Johnson family of companies. They have two sons, Chaz, who is in the 7th grade and Chapman, who is in the 1st grade.

Dr. Lever received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wofford College in Spartanburg, SC; his Master of Divinity degree from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta; and has Doctor of Ministry degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Dr. Lever's continuing education credits include work at the Jerusalem Center for Church Studies in Israel; the Robert

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Schuller Institute in Garden Grove, CA; and others.

Dr. Lever is the recipient of the American Legion Award for "Courage, Honor, Leadership, Patriotism, Scholarship and Service." He has been inducted into the International Honorary Chapter of the Sigma Nu Fraternity, the Phi Beta Kappa "National Scholastic Society," and Pi Gamma Mu "National Social Science Honor Society," the International Society of Theta Phi for "Scholars and Leaders in Religion," the Blue Key National Honor Fraternity which recognizes "Academic and Extracurricular Leadership," and has been listed in various volumes of "Who's Who, Outstanding Young Men in America," and "The Dean's List."

Dr. Lever has a varied background in Christian Ministry. In college he served as Youth Counselor at the Look-Up Lodge and Camp in Traveler's Rest, SC; as a Youth Director at Duncan Memorial UMC in Spartanburg, SC; and as a Summer Youth Director at Southside UMC in Jacksonville, FL. In seminary he served as Minister of Martin's Chapel UMC in Lawrenceville, GA; as Chaplain to the terminal care unit at Wesley Woods Health Center in Atlanta, GA; and as Chaplain to the oncology unit at Crawford Long Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Lever's first appointment in the Florida Annual Conference was to the Ortega UMC in Jacksonville, FL. He then served Swaim Memorial UMC also in Jacksonville. While at Swaim UMC, Frank and Helen Sherman gave seven million dollars to begin the Sherman Scholarship program for students entering the ministry from the Florida Conference and one thousand dollars to begin a preschool program during the weekday at the church. After Swaim UMC, Dr. Lever then served Riverside Park UMC in Jacksonville until his appointment to Lake Magdalene UMC in June, 1995. Riverside Park is recognized for its numerous outreach ministries including a ninety-unit apartment complex for the elderly, a 125-unit child care center for low income families, and The Life Center (a community outreach ministry for older adults which draws individuals from around the city).

Dr. Lever is active in both District and Conference affairs. In the Jacksonville District he served on the Board of the Christian Enrichment School, the District Committee on Finance and the District Committee on Superintendency. He also served as Chairman of the District Committee on Ordained Ministry. On the Conference level, he has served on the Conference Council on Ministries, the Conference Work Area on Education and he currently serves on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (CBOM). On the CBOM he serves on the Executive Committee, the Guidance Committee, the Policy Committee and as the CBOM Secretary.

Dr. Lever has served on numerous boards and agencies. Among these are the boards of the St. Marks Ark Lutheran Church Child Care; the Riverside Park Apartments; The Riverside Park Child Care Center; and The Life Center. He has also served as Vice-Chair of the Wesley Manor Retirement Community and as Vice Chair of the Wesley Villas which is currently completing a 6 million dollar, 640-unit villa retirement complex.

Dr. Lever received his calling into the Ordained Ministry as a youth and received his License to Preach in 1975. He met his wife, Xiommy, on a double-date in high school (they were both dating other individuals as the time) and ended up dating their senior year in high school. Their common love for the church and of one another made them an ideal match for each other. Today, Xiommy is active in Disciple Bible Study and the Walk of Emmaus. She also serves as a Cer-

tified Lay Speaker in the United Methodist Church.

Dr. Lever is excited to be sharing in the ministry of Lake Magdalene UMC. He believes that the bedrock to our faith is to be found in coming to know Christ and in making Him known to others through word and deed. It is to this end that Dr. Lever has committed his life to God's Kingdom.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator GREGG, is recognized.

Mr. GREGG. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately proceed to executive session for consideration of Calendar No. 324, the nomination of Charles Siragusa of New York to be a U.S. district judge. Under the order, the time between now and 10:30 a.m. will be equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member. At the expiration or yielding back of time, the Senate will proceed to a vote on the Siragusa nomination. Therefore, Senators should be alerted that there will be a rollcall vote this morning at 10:30 a.m.

Following the vote, there will be a period of morning business until 12 noon. At 12 noon the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1292, a bill disapproving the cancellations transmitted by the President on October 6. While that measure has a 10-hour statutory time limitation, it is the hope of the majority leader that much of that time may be yielded back.

The Senate may also consider and complete action on any or all of the following items during today's session: The D.C. appropriations bill, the FDA reform conference report, the Amtrak strike resolution, the intelligence authorization conference report, and any additional legislative or executive items that can be cleared.

I also remind all Senators that under rule XXII, they have until 1 p.m. today in order to file timely amendments to H.R. 2646, the A-plus educational savings account bill. Needless to say, all Senators should expect rollcall votes throughout today's session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GREGG). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CHARLES J. SIRAGUSA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session and proceed to the nomination of Charles J. Siragusa, of New York, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Charles J. Siragusa, of New York, to be U.S. district judge for the Western District of New York.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time until 10:30 a.m. shall be equally divided between the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH], and the Senator from Vermont [Mr. LEAHY].

Mr. GRAMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for 10:30 a.m. today be postponed until 12 noon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a period for morning business now commence until 12 noon and that the previous order with respect to S. 1292 then follow the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DOD AUTHORIZATION BILL CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the conference report to the DOD authorization bill. One of the issues which held up the resolution of the conference was the high performance computer issue. This matter certainly was not resolved to my satisfaction, and I understand that this is one of three issues that may cause the veto of this legislation.

On July 10 the Grams-Boxer amendment passed in the Senate by a vote of 72-27. It created a GAO study on the national security concerns related to computer sales between 2,000-7,000 MTOPS to tier 3 countries. Those countries include China, Russia, and Israel.